

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brodmann et al. (US Pat. No. 4,045,601). The Examiner submits Brodmann et al. teach a multi-step process for treatment of woven fiber, first, by impregnation with a liquid pre-finishing composition and then by impregnation with a liquid finishing composition (col. 2, lines 1-8). Further, the Examiner submits that Brodmann et al. also teach that the liquid pre-finishing composition comprises pigment dye (col. 4, lines 5-15). Thus, the Examiner believes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate a method comprising the steps of impregnating a colorant into a polymeric material, assembling a substrate from the polymeric material, and externally dyeing said substrate to form a final color shade on the substrate, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success, because the broad teachings of Brodmann et al. suggest a method comprising the above mentioned steps (Paper 13, pages 2-3).

Claims 4, 7, 12, and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Brodmann et al. in view of Freeman (US Pat. No. 4,902,787) under 35 USC 103(a). The Examiner submits that Freeman specifically teaches that a photostabilizer is incorporated into the dyestuff structure (col. 3, lines 23-27). Thus, the Examiner believes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to add the UV stabilizing agent into a polymeric material as an internal process, with a reasonable expectation of success, because the broad teachings of Freeman suggest a method of impregnating a photostabilizer moiety into the dyestuffs structure and further, Brodmann et al. teach that the pre-finishing composition also contains pigment dye in general (Paper 13, pages 3-4).

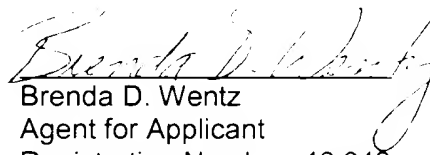
Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 to include the limitation that the polymeric material is internally dyed by introducing a colorant into a melt of the polymeric material. Claims 2, 6, 10 and 14 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Brodmann et al., either alone or in combination with Freeman, do not teach or suggest the use of an internally dyed polymeric material, wherein the polymeric material is dyed by introducing a colorant into a melt of the polymeric material, to form a structure having a base color shade and the subsequent external dyeing of the material to form a final color shade. Furthermore, since claims 2-4 and 6-16 depend from currently amended independent claims 1 and 5, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-16 has now been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of amended claims 1-16 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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